

SUMMARY

The dissertation examined the effect of political discourse and political network on the different forms of political participation. In Hungary, political life was characterized by polarization and homogenization in the 2000s. It was observable both on the level of parties and voters. Homophilic structures increasingly became typical in the networks too. Parties and voters were also moving away from each other along the different axes of ideologies: Hungarian politics was characterised by strong partisanship. In addition to the traditional cleavages (left-right, liberal-conservative), moderate-radical cleavage was strengthened between 2008 and 2010, which turned out to be a new organizer element in networks. Partly because of the failures of the transition, attitudes on democracy got stabilized at very low levels in Hungary. In this social environment, pathological in many respects, persons with heterophile network structure showed a pattern of lower electoral participation compared to persons with homogeneous opinion-milieu - in accordance with the expectations in the hypotheses. The effect of confirmatory networks on the increase of participation was especially strong in the case of right-wing voters who were really interested in politics. However, it is important to complete the interpretation of the result with the fact that what mattered firstly was if someone had any political networks (and if yes, how large it was); and the structure of this network mattered only in the second place. At those participational dimensions that required deeper political involvement (for example, participation at demonstration), the volume of the network mattered more, and the structure of it less.

The observed modes of action were successfully identifiable on the macro-level too. In settlements where the electoral competition was tight, the participation at the election was lower. This was basically indentifiable in small settlements, and was explainable with the conflict-stricken environment.